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ELEMENTS OF COMET *b*, 1897.

By R. Tracy Crawford.

From observations made at the Lick Observatory and telegraphed to the Students' Observatory by Professor J. M. Schaeberle, Acting Director, I have computed the following sets of parabolic elements for Comet *b*, 1897. The first set, from observations by Mr. Perrine on October 16th and 17th, and by Professor Hussey on October 18th, is:—

$$T = 1897 \text{ Dec. } 8.86570 \text{ G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} i = 69^\circ\ 35'\ 39''.5 \\ \Omega = 32\quad 3\quad 21\ .0 \\ \omega = 66\quad 6\quad 41\ .4 \end{array}\right\} \text{Mean Equinox of 1897.0}$$

$$q = 1.355513$$

Representation of middle place—

$$\Delta\lambda \cos\beta = -0''.3 \qquad \Delta\beta = -1''.0$$

$$\text{Cot } J = 9.818048_n \qquad \text{Cot } J_0 = 9.818044_n$$

The second set, from observations by Mr. Perrine on October 16th, and by Professor Hussey on October 31st and November 15th, is:—

$$T = 1897 \text{ Dec. } 8.550029 \text{ G. M. T.}$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} i = 69^\circ\ 35'\ 51''.5 \\ \Omega = 32\quad 2\quad 56\ .6 \\ \omega = 65\quad 48\quad 38\ .0 \end{array}\right\} \text{Mean Equinox of 1897.0}$$

$$q = 1.357331$$

Representation of middle place—

$$\Delta\lambda \cos\beta = +11''.7 \qquad \Delta\beta = +19''.6$$

$$\text{Cot } J = 9.238929_n \qquad \text{Cot } J_0 = 9.238926_n$$

The value of log M used in determining the second set of elements was derived from the first set, as follows:—

$$\log M = 0.064621$$

which agrees exactly with the value of

$$\log M = 0.064621$$

resulting from the second set, so that the second set of elements must be considered as the best parabolic orbit which can be passed through the given observations.

University of California, Students' Observatory,
December 13, 1897.